

Springerville Town Council  
Minutes  
March 5, 2008

Present: Kay Dyson Mayor, Mary Nedrow Vice Mayor, Eric Baca, Pete Hunt and Phelps Wilkins

Staff: Interim Town Manager Steve West, Val Cordova Town Clerk, Eduardo Coronado, Town Attorney, Larisa Bogardus, Karen Asquith, Tom Malone, Max Sadler, Sharon Pinckard, Mike Nuttal.

Public: Kevin Burk, Ron Cavanaugh, Mary & Kyle Nuttal, Judy Hayes WMI, Jennifer Prochnow Chamber, Krista Demetrulias & Kevin Bushnell with ACYFL.

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dyson at 6:07p.m. with a quorum.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Dyson, Invocation by Councilman Hunt.
3. Public Participation: None
4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:

Jennifer Prochnow Chamber Director reported on the Team grant they received from the Office of Tourism for an ad in Sunset magazine and to update the website. There will be an ad in the May edition and a free ad in their summer edition. The website is coming along well, tours are beginning to pick up and they added four new members to the chamber. She gave kudos to the public works department for the awesome job in the renovation.

Mayor Dyson reported that the Family Values Coalition for Round Valley have scheduled April 1<sup>st</sup> for Ready, Set, Relax day.

The Forest Service has scheduled meeting for March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> to listen to comments on the revised the modified road proposal.

The Town of Eagar has scheduled a public hearing for the proposed renewable energy plant for March 18<sup>th</sup>. This will take residue from the all forestry projects and put it through a gasification pyrolysis system to make syngas and biofuels.

Mr. West reported staff have been working on a rate setting to present to the council. The police department completed an Federal audit through a Homeland Security with a zero deficiencies for the funds they received over the last two or three years. This amount is over a quarter million dollars.

Consent Agenda:

5. Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the February 20, 2008 council meeting.
  - B. Minutes of the February 27, 2008 council workshop.

Mary Nedrow/Pete Hunt motion to approve consent items 5a – 5b.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Eric Baca
		Pete Hunt
		Phelps Wilkins

Old Business:

6. Mr. West suggested that the council move this item to the end of the agenda because it will be lengthy.

7. Awards Presentation:

Mayor Dyson congratulated and presented service pins to town staff members Mike Nuttal for 15 years and Thomas Malone with 10 years of service to the town of Springerville

8. Fair Housing Month: Discussion and action proclaiming April 2008 as Fair Housing month in the Town of Springerville. Mayor Dyson read the proclamation.

Pete Hunt/Eric Baca motion to proclaim April 2008 as Fair Housing month in the Town of Springerville.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Eric Baca
		Pete Hunt
		Phelps Wilkins

9. Arizona Competitive Youth Football League: Presentation by Kevin Bushnell with ACY.

Kevin Bushnell and Krista Demetrulias gave a presentation regarding bringing Arizona Competitive Youth tackle football to Springerville and Eagar and our surrounding communities. They said they were not here to ask for money but for assistance in getting volunteers, fields to play in, and community participation as well as local business sponsorship. They have been in existence since 1999 and hope to expand to 138 teams that will include Tucson and the surrounding communities in the White Mountains. They explained that the teams are grade based and not by weight or age restrictions. They have a good relationship with the USA Football, the Arizona Cardinals and NFL. The ACYTF provider's equipment, uniforms, referees, advertising, insurance, provide maintenance for fields and EMT's at every game.

The council thanked them and gave them contacts for the fields, the town of Eagar and the athletic director for the high school.

10. Town of Eagar: Discussion and action regarding a contribution request to assist with the Spring Easter Eggstravaganza.

Mayor Dyson explained that this was on the agenda to let everyone know that they were looking for donations. She encouraged anyone that could personally donate this would be a good cause.

11. Storage Container Enforcement: Discussion and action regarding a proposed enforcement of existing non-conforming storage.

Ms. Bogardus reminded the council that existing non-conforming storage containers have not been addressed. She presented a proposal that specifies they comply with the same standards to paint them and make them attractive by painting them. The other section addresses containers in residential areas specifying that they need to comply with the same standards to make them more residential in nature and phase them out. We can say it can't be replaced if it rusts and falls down you can't bring in another container and if they don't comply they can be asked to remove it. She advised the council that she just wanted direction from them.

Vice Mayor Nedrow raised the question of who makes the decision that it has to be painted or it's an eyesore. The consensus of the council was to stay with the date of October 17<sup>th</sup> not to allow any others to come in. They're done with this and did not want anything more done with storage.

12. Executive Session: Mayor Dyson announced that they don't need to address item 12.

Mary Nedrow/Phelps Wilkins motion to table executive session.

Vote:

Ayes:

Kay Dyson  
Mary Nedrow  
Eric Baca  
Pete Hunt  
Phelps Wilkins

6. Water/Wastewater Rate Plan: Discussion regarding alternative water rate increase proposals.

Mayor Dyson announced that they listened to a presentation by Economists.com regarding the proposed water/wastewater rate increases during the workshop last week and staff had been asked to bring back an additional alternative for them to consider.

Mr. West noted that per council direction a fourth option was added between options three and four. Tonight by consensus of the council one option will be chosen to present to the public during the public hearing.

Ms. Asquith advised the council that they have a revised plan that adds the incremental reimbursement to the general fund over and above the Hurf reimbursement. A discussion with the utility board and the council was the validity of attempting or the appropriateness of refunding general fund moneys that were transferred to sewer fund over the years. The confusion was in talking about the refund of the general fund money. She again advised the council that we are required by statute to repay the Hurf fund. The reimbursement to the general fund is a policy matter for the town. She noted that the memo she presented is a compilation of conversations she had with some department heads. They noted all the opportunities that would come out if this rate adjustment could be put into place. (list attached)

Ms. Asquith stated that she included a chart with the incremental differences between the rate increases. It also includes the reduction in the rates when we hit 2011. The plan was not designed to have uniform increases throughout the years, but to cover costs, meet debt service and fund capital improvements with the heavy increases at the beginning to make up for what hasn't been done in the past. Because we are phasing in rate increases, we can only phase out the general fund subsidies. Over the next 5 years there is a projected number of almost a million dollars that we will continue to transfer while we wean ourselves from the subsidy. It diminishes every year but the sum total is almost a million dollars. She also noted that a lot of the conversations centered on the Charrette. She suggested that a policy be implemented by the council that these increases be used for projects and not for salaries or raises.

Department heads spoke on behalf of the ideas they would like to see accomplished with the funds from the increases. (noted on the attached memo)

Councilman Hunt stated that he understands having to raise water rates but would really have a hard time asking our citizens or businesses to take that big a jump in rates. He suggested looking at other nonessential programs for the community.

Mr. West asked him to keep in mind that this increase would sunset, and it would go away.

Mayor Dyson stated that the average inflationary rate is five to six percent a year and we have only raised our rate three times since 1976. It's a matter of how much to raise the rates. There is no question that we have to repay the Hurf fund and it's time to bite the bullet and repay what we have borrowed from ourselves to break even.

Councilman Baca said he understood what Councilman Hunt said; however had we been raising rates slowly it wouldn't be such a slap in the face. For years the council's did not act in an appropriate fashion in not raising rates and now we are trying to make up for those years. He felt that getting the proper funding so we can take of everyone but noted it would be a bigger concern if we couldn't fund the senior center or we if couldn't respond to a fire because we don't have a fire truck. He stated that he personally doesn't like rate increases but would be in favor of supporting alternative three but not the highest one.

Ms. Asquith interjected that only the highest rate will reimburse the general fund and repay the Hurf and do the things the council wants.

Vice Mayor Nedrow stated that she was not in favor of raising rates the last time and thought this was quite a jump but would support something between alternative two and three.

Councilman Wilkins stated that we have gotten ourselves in a really big hole and stated that in five years the town will still be behind the State average and gave his support for alternative # four.

Mayor Dyson stated that she agreed with Councilman Hunt, she's also worried about the economy, the recession and what it will do to our people but is also worried about being able to provide services to the citizens. She said she was in favor of alternative four and reminded everyone that the rates could be evaluated after two years.

13. Adjournment:

Pete Hunt/Mary Nedrow motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07p.m.

Vote:	Ayes:	Kay Dyson
		Mary Nedrow
		Eric Baca
		Pete Hunt
		Phelps Wilkins

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Kay Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday March 5, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2008

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